

Page 7, please delete "bath and a cutting device (not shown)" and substitute therefor --bath 43 and a cutting device 42--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 27.

Please amend claim 16.

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1 16. (Amended) A method, which does not use extruders, for the production
2 of expandable plastics granulate from a plastics melt and a fluid blowing agent that is, when at
3 [an elevated] a pressure within a predetermined pressure[,] range, only partly soluble in the
4 melt, the method comprising the steps of:
5 dispersing the blowing agent in the melt with [extensive] shearing of the melt
6 thereby creating a mixture;
7 retaining the mixture within a predetermined pressure range for a predetermined
8 retention time;
9 subjecting the mixture to [substantially little] less shearing, with respect to the
10 shearing during the dispersing step, during the predetermined retention time;
11 cooling the mixture to a temperature that is [several degrees Celsius] above the
12 solidification temperature of the melt;
13 granulating the cooled mixture; and
14 acting on the mixture with static mixer elements.

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IN THE ABSTRACT:

Line 6, please delete "2," and substitute therefor --2--.

Line 15, please delete "According to the invention the mixture is acted upon by static mixing elements and by this mixing is avoided segregation."